

Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQ”) Regarding the Proposed Combined Petition for Incorporation and Consolidation

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1. *What is the Petition asking for?*

In basic terms, the Petition is a request by the Town residents who sign it to transform Crawford from a town to a consolidated or coterminous town-village. A consolidated or coterminous town-village occurs when a town and village include exactly the same boundaries, i.e. that both municipal boundaries start and end at the exact same place. Coterminous town-villages are a special and unique form of organizing local government that is starting to become more popular in New York State, as six other town-villages already exist in New York: Mount Kisco, Harrison, and Scarsdale, in Westchester County; Green Island in Albany County; East Rochester in Monroe County; and, most recently, Tuxedo in Orange County.

More specifically, this Petition is a voter-initiated procedure wherein two processes will occur simultaneously: (1) a new Village of Crawford will be incorporated, which will extend to the entire borders of the Town; and (2) immediately the newly incorporated Village will be consolidated with the Town of Crawford. Although Mount Kisco, Harrison, Scarsdale, Green Island, and East Rochester have set up their new governmental structures slightly differently, this Petition aims to create a consolidated town and village that will function together as a single local government—similar to the process Tuxedo accomplished in 2019-2021.

2. *Can you summarize the Petition in a timeline format?*

A previous timeline has already been submitted to the Town. For convenience, the timeline has been attached to this “FAQ.”

3. *How long will this process take?*

The attached timeline includes mandatory dates for completion of steps within the process. That being said, this is an open-ended process that can move as quickly or as slowly—within the mandatory statutory confines—as necessary. It is in the Petitioners’ best interest to submit the Petition as quickly as possible (see answer to #4, below).

4. *What happens if another set of Petitioners files a similar Petition before this one is finalized?*

This is a “first come, first served” process. This means that if another Petition is filed with the Town Clerk prior to the filing of this Petition, the Town Clerk should wait until that other Petition is either rejected or is approved in its entirety. This is a precaution that avoids

the undesired result of one piece of property being part of two different incorporated villages, which is not allowed under the New York State Village Law.

Therefore, it is in the Petitioners' best interest to submit their Petition as soon as possible to avoid this potentially unwanted result.

5. *When do the residents vote on this proposal?*

There is one mandatory voting opportunity wherein a "referendum" vote will be held. A typical referendum occurs when a general vote on a single political question is held. In this case, the Town will hold a mandatory "combined referendum," held on the question of whether the Combined Petition for Incorporation and Consolidation should be approved. Since the Petition includes two procedures—incorporation and consolidation—these procedures will be voted on separately pursuant to state statute. All voters registered within the Town of Crawford may vote on both questions.

If the referendum passes on both questions, voters also have the opportunity to conduct another petition drive to require a second referendum on the Consolidation Plan itself. The purpose of this referendum would be to demonstrate that amendments are needed to the Plan prior to consolidation and reorganization. If the petition is successful, this permissive referendum will be held on the question of whether the proposed Consolidation Plan, which governs the future consolidated town-village of Crawford, should be approved "as-is". All voters within the Town of Crawford can vote to approve the Consolidation Plan if this second referendum is held.

6. *What is the number of votes that is required to pass this Petition?*

The Petition itself must be signed by at least 20% of the registered voters in the incorporation area pursuant to the NYS Village Law provisions governing incorporation.¹ These voters must have been registered by the last preceding general election. The Town Clerk keeps the list of voters at his or her office.

To pass the Petition, one mandatory referendum must be held (see answer to question #5 above). For both the incorporation and consolidation questions within the combined referendum, a simple majority vote will count as an approval for either question.

7. *Why should I sign this Petition or vote yes for each referendum?*

There is one main reason to sign this Petition, or vote yes for each referendum question. This reason has to do with the difference between the powers villages and towns were given by state statute. Unfortunately, towns have fewer powers than villages in one important arena: the existence of a village prevents any other villages from incorporating within the same borders. This means that the creation of a town-village within the Town of

¹ Note that New York State General Municipal Law requires that consolidation petitions be signed by only 10% of the registered voters in the consolidation area. However, because this is a dual procedure following both New York State Village Law and General Municipal Law statutory requirements, the petition needs to meet the requirements of the more stringent statute—in this case, the Village Law's 20% requirement.

Crawford's existing borders will prevent any other villages from incorporating within said existing borders, i.e. the entirety of the Town of Crawford.

This has the added benefit of preventing future financial burdens to the Town and its taxpayers by avoiding the threat of multiple unconsolidated municipal governments existing within the Town. Multiple unconsolidated governments can create additional expenses for residents, as overlapping municipal governments in turn create overlapping taxes for the provision of redundant residential services.

To summarize, the Petition's approval will generally allow the Town to exercise the above increased powers of a village while continuing to operate as a town.

8. *Isn't this the same process that happened in Woodbury? Don't they have issues with overlapping taxes?*

The Village and Town of Woodbury do have issues with overlapping taxes. However, this occurred because the Village and Town only completed the first step in the process—incorporation. The Town of Woodbury never consolidated with the Village of Woodbury. The Petition seeks to avoid the problems created in Woodbury by instead following the consolidation provisions (set forth in the New York Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act) simultaneously when the new Village of Crawford is created. This is an important distinction to the proposed Petition, as Petitioners are able to overcome Woodbury's mistakes by creating a combined incorporation and consolidation procedure. The Petition aims to follow Tuxedo's model, as Tuxedo was successful in overcoming this pitfall and has fully incorporated and consolidated into a town-village. Please see answer to Question # 22 for more information.

9. *What are the differences between a village and a town?*

As noted in question 7 above, villages and towns have different powers in New York. For example, towns do not have a separate executive branch of town government. A Town Supervisor functions as a part of the legislative branch instead. A Supervisor's duties under law include: (1) acting as treasurer and taking care and custody of funds belonging to the town; (2) disbursing funds for the town's usage; (3) keeping an accurate and complete account of all town funds; (4) making reports as required; (5) paying fixed salaries and other claims; (6) and leasing, selling, and conveying town properties, when so directed by the Town Board. It is clear from that list that the town supervisor functions as a fiscal officer. In addition, a Supervisor can be considered as more of an administrator than an executive officer, as they do not possess any special powers other than what is listed above.

In New York villages, conversely, a mayor is normally the chief executive officer. Unlike a Town Supervisor, the Village Mayor is not the chief fiscal officer of the Village and therefore has no explicit fiscal duties. A Mayor is however responsible for enforcing the village's laws, as well as for appointing all non-elected village officers and employees.

In certain ways, therefore, a Village Mayor has more authority than a Town Supervisor. Once the Town of Crawford converts into a town-village upon passage of the Petition, the Town Supervisor will be able to exercise some of the executive powers a Village Mayor normally only possesses. However, these powers could be curtailed in the Consolidation Plan or by local law, subject to referendum. In Tuxedo, for example, the Town Board determined in the Final Consolidation Plan that the Supervisor would remain as a Town Supervisor and would not gain the chief executive powers of a Village Mayor.

10. *Will the elected Town Highway Superintendent still exist?*

Yes, the elected Town Highway Superintendent will still exist. The suggested elector-initiated Consolidation Plan (found within the proposed Petition) does not propose any changes to the current governmental structure of the Town.

11. *Will the change from town to town-village affect Orange County's guarantee on tax relevys?*

No. Orange County is still required to guarantee payment of tax relevys under state law.

12. *Will the change from town to town-village cause residents to be obligated to pay for special improvement districts?*

Currently, the cost and expense of providing services to special improvement districts, such as sewer, and water services, are paid for by charges assessed against only those properties within the boundaries of those respective special improvement districts. This will not change when the town-village is created. Specific sections of the New York Village Law (§ 2-252(b)(2), 17-1718(1)) prohibit such a change and require that the status quo remain.

13. *What if the Petition fails?*

If either referendum fails, reorganization will not take place. This means that the process cannot be initiated again for the same purpose for at least **four years** pursuant to state statute. This prohibition serves as even stronger incentive for the Petitioners to garner as much support as possible from the Town's citizens before filing the Petition.

14. *Can any changes be made to the proposed Consolidation Plan prior to the referendum?*

Whatever elector-proposed Consolidation Plan (the "Plan") was filed with the petition and requisite signatures is the plan that will be subject of the dual referendum. However, the Town Board still needs to review the elector-proposed Plan and create the Final Consolidation Plan ("Final Plan"), which will be subject to a public hearing. Any public comments received during the hearing will help inform the language and substance of the Final Plan, which will then become the document that is adopted and will govern how the town/village will function and govern itself.

15. *Are absentee ballots permitted for the dual referendum?*

New York State Attorney General Opinion 2006-01 states that absentee ballots are prohibited for incorporation referendums. This prohibition would likely be construed to also apply to consolidation referendums. Since this is a combined incorporation and consolidation referendum, absentee ballots cannot be used.

16. Is there another option that will accomplish the same goals as the Petition?

It is true that there are other ways to create a coterminous village; however, this format is the only option at present that maintains the status-quo.

Other methods include: (1) petitioning the State Legislature to adopt a special act creating the coterminous town-village or (2) submitting a public petition under Article Five of the New York State Town Law. To accomplish the first option, there must be two separate and already existing governments that wish to merge into a town-village. Those two governments will send a “home rule request” to the State Legislature to enact the bill. Because the new village does not exist yet, the Petition cannot follow this method.

The second option, which calls for a division of an existing town into two towns (one of which would have the same boundaries as an existing village), would also not work. This is because the Town of Crawford does not wish to split into two entities, but rather keep its current boundaries.

The current form of the Petition is therefore the simplest option that accomplishes the Petition’s goals without any effect on the status quo of the existing Town. Again, we note that Tuxedo was successful in following the same Petition format.

17. What changes will be made, if any, to the existing Town Board and Supervisor powers if the Petition is successful?

No changes will be made to the respective powers of the existing Town Board and Supervisor if the Petition is successful. Although governmental entities are empowered to make such changes and document them within the Consolidation Plan, neither the Town of Crawford Town Board nor the Petitioners want any change to occur. Therefore, each Town Board member and the Town Supervisor will retain the same powers and abilities as they did prior to the Petition, which will be documented within the Final Consolidation Plan (as occurred in Tuxedo).

18. I’ve heard talk of New York State passing legislation that would change the petition requirements to create a village in New York. Is this true? Would this affect the current Petition?

It is true that Assemblyman Colin Schmitt has introduced a bill (twice) that would raise the minimum population and percentage of petition signers needed in New York to create a village. Specifically, Schmitt wants to raise the population threshold to 2,000 from 500 and

require that at least 51 percent of the area's residents sign the village petition, rather than 20 percent.

Regardless of whether this proposed bill gains any legislative traction in the future (and it has not since first introduced in 2019), it would not affect a petition that has already been filed pursuant to the previous village incorporation procedures.

19. *What are the next steps once the petition is filed?*

Once the correct number of signatures are received and the petition is filed, the Town Clerk needs up to 10 days to assert the validity of the petition per the NYS Village Law. Assuming the petition is found valid, the Town Board must then hold a hearing on the subject of the legal sufficiency of the petition (i.e. whether the statutory requirements are met—no other subjects are permitted to be discussed per the statutes or the hearing is invalid) before there can be a resolution calling for the referendum.

After the petition is filed and determined to be legally sufficient by the Clerk, the notice of hearing must be posted within 20 days in five public places within the Town and at least twice in the Town's official newspaper (Village Law § 2-204). There is a 20-30 day notice period—i.e. the hearing cannot be held less than 20 days nor more than 30 days after the first posting (Village Law § 2-204). Village Law 2-206 also requires that the hearing be closed within 20 days of opening.

After the public hearing is held and closed, the next step is for the Town Board to enact a resolution calling for the dual referendum vote and setting a date for the vote. The referendum vote must occur within 60 to 90 days after the resolution.

After the vote (assuming both votes pass—see answer to Questions # 5 and 6 for more detail), the Town Clerk must immediately file a "Certificate of Election" with the Secretary of State, the Town Clerk's own office, and the Orange County Clerk's office. The Certificate of Election will certify the results of the dual vote. After 10 but within 15 days of the filing of the Certificate of Election, the Town Clerk must then file a "Report of Incorporation" with State and local entities. After these final "incorporation" steps are completed, the NYS Department of State will issue an incorporation certificate for the new Village of Crawford. Immediately, the consolidation process will then commence.

The remaining procedural steps are detailed in a timeline format, which was previously submitted to the Town. For convenience, the timeline has been attached to this "Public Hearing FAQ." The attached timeline includes mandatory dates for completion of each procedural step. That being said, this is an open-ended process that can move as quickly or as slowly—within the mandatory statutory confines—as necessary.

20. *How many days are required to schedule the referendum and how will the public be notified?*

The referendum must be held within 60 to 90 days after the resolution calling for the dual referendum is enacted. The public will be notified by public notice in the official newspaper, press releases to other media, and notices posted in the library and the Town Clerk's office.

21. *If the voters approve of the referendum how soon does the new village go into effect? Exactly how does the town "flip" from the new village back into a town?*

The Petition is a voter-initiated procedure wherein two processes will occur simultaneously if the dual referendum is approved: (1) a new Village of Crawford will be incorporated, which will extend to the entire borders of the Town; and (2) immediately the newly incorporated Village will be consolidated with the Town of Crawford.

Because the petition is combined and specifically states that incorporation will not occur without consolidation, if the consolidation vote fails, the entire petition fails. No incorporation will occur. Therefore, both questions need to pass in order to create the Consolidated Town of Crawford. There is no wait time or "flipping" from the new village back into a town, because the incorporation of the new village and consolidation with the existing town occurs simultaneously as soon as the votes are certified by the Town Clerk in the Certificate of Election (please see answer to question # 19 above). As soon as the Certificate of Election and Report of Incorporation are filed with the appropriate state and local agencies, the new town/village has been properly created. There are additional steps in the consolidation process after this point (please see attached timeline for more detail), but these steps only further refine the already existing town/village.

22. *What exactly will the referendum ask the voters to approve?*

A typical referendum occurs when a general vote on a single political question is held. In this case, the Town will hold a mandatory "combined referendum" where two yes/no questions will be posed to the eligible voters. Since the Petition includes two procedures—incorporation and consolidation—these procedures will be voted on separately pursuant to state statute. Only those residing in the proposed area of incorporation and qualified to vote in town elections may vote each question.

The first question (on incorporation) will be: *Should the Village of Crawford be incorporated pursuant to the elector-initiated petition?* Only those residing in the proposed area of incorporation and qualified to vote in town elections may vote on that question.

The second question (on consolidation) will be: *Should the newly incorporated Village of Crawford be immediately consolidated with the existing Town of Crawford to create the Town-Village of Crawford?*

23. *How does this affect any of our other elected town officials such as town clerk or superintendent of highways?*

If the referendum is successful, the Town of Crawford shall remain organized as a Town and will have the same officials, both elected and appointed. Officials will have the additional powers of corresponding village officials (with the exception that the Town Board can determine, based upon public feedback, whether the Town Supervisor will possess the chief executive powers of a Village Mayor); however, these individual powers remain the same, with the exception of the supervisorial versus mayoral power differences discussed within this FAQ.

24. Will this change give the town board any additional powers?

There is a difference between the powers villages and towns were given by state statute. Unfortunately, towns have fewer powers than villages. Most importantly, villages can prevent other villages from incorporating within that same village's municipal boundaries; therefore, the creation of the town-village of Crawford will prevent any other villages from incorporating within the Town's borders. This has the added benefit of preventing future financial burdens to the Town and its taxpayers by avoiding the threat of multiple unconsolidated municipal governments existing within the Town. Multiple unconsolidated governments can create additional expenses for residents, as overlapping municipal governments in turn create overlapping taxes for the provision of redundant residential services.

25. Will there be any extra steps or changes in the process of applying for a building permit?

No, the procedure will not cause any extra steps or changes in the building permit application process.

26. Will there be any changes in our current zoning laws?

The procedure itself will not cause any changes to the current zoning laws.

27. Will this change result in any type of new taxes for the new town-village?

There will be no impact on taxes for the new town-village.

28. Will it be necessary to reassess all the properties in the new town/village?

No, there is no need to impose a mandatory reassessment of all properties within the new town/village.

29. Will this change in status result in a change in any monies we currently receive or are eligible to receive from either the state or county?

No, the change in status will not result in a change in state or county grant or monies eligibility.

30. What will the new town/village be called?

The new town-village will be formally called the Consolidated Town of Crawford. Informally, we expect that the town-village will continue to be referred to as the “Town of Crawford.”

31. *Will this in any way affect our current school district boundaries?*

The school district boundaries are not affected by this procedure.

COMBINED INCORPORATION AND CONSOLIDATION PROCEDURE TIMELINE FOR THE PROPOSED CONSOLIDATED TOWN OF CRAWFORD

The Town of Crawford seeks to commence a combined procedure wherein two processes will occur in parallel: (1) a new Village of Crawford will be incorporated, which will extend to the entire borders of the Town; and (2) immediately the newly incorporated Village will be consolidated with the Town of Crawford. The goals of this process include giving the Town greater flexibility and authority to provide services to its residents, as well as to allow greater economy and efficiency, while protecting residents against the wasteful proliferation of overlapping governments and minimizing transition costs by authorizing the Town to exercise the powers of a village while continuing to operate as a Town.

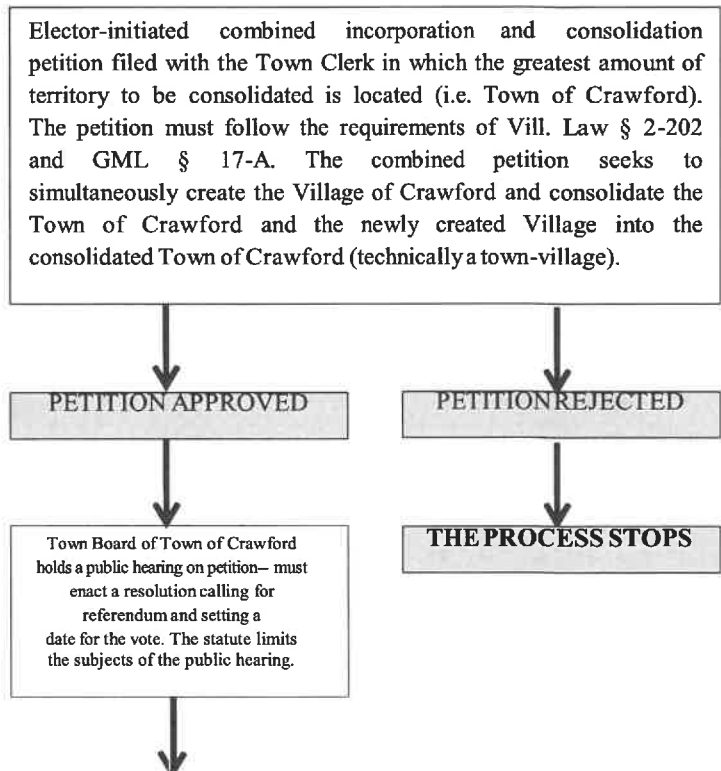
This combined procedure will follow two separate statutory authorizations. Incorporation will proceed under Article 2, Incorporation, of the NY Village Law. Consolidation will proceed under Title 2, Consolidation of Local Government Entities, of the New NY Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act. This Act is comprised of Article 17-A of the General Municipal Law and provides a process for voters registered in the Town of Crawford to petition for a public vote on consolidating their local government.

The dual processes will be elector-initiated.

The petition must be signed by at least 20% of the registered voters ("electors") in the incorporation area. The incorporation area must have at least 500 regular inhabitants. The incorporation area is coterminous with the entire boundary of a refuse district pursuant to § 2-200(1)(b).

Within 10 days, clerk must make final determination regarding the sufficiency of the number of signatures on the petition and as to whether any proceedings for election review have been instituted by an elector pursuant to Vill. Law § 2-224.

After 20 but within 30 days of the clerk's determining of the validity of the petition.



Summary of the petition is to be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the referendum pursuant to GML 17-A § 758. Vote must occur within 60 to 90 days after the resolution calling for the referendum.

Town Clerk must immediately file certification of the results of the referendum (called a "certificate of election") with the Secretary of State, Town Clerk's office, and the Orange County Clerk's Office.

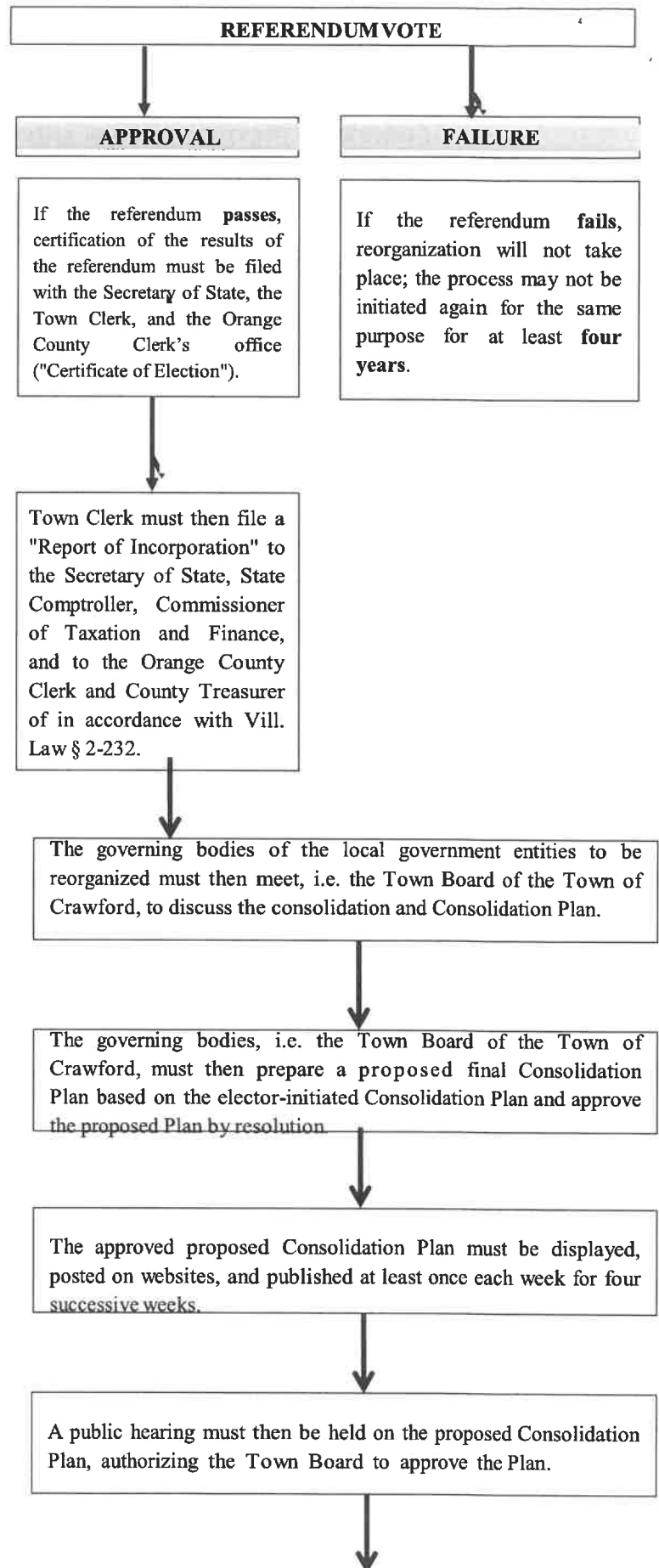
After 10 but within 15 days of the filing of the Certificate of Election, if no review proceeding is initiated.

Within 30 days of certification of referendum results.

Within 180 days.

No later than 5 business days after the proposed plan is approved.

Within 35 to 90 days after the resolution of approval.



No later than 5 business days after the plan is approved, as may be amended, a summary and copy of the final plan must be displayed within the Town of Crawford and posted on the Town's website.

Within 60 days from the close of the last public hearing.

The date specified in the plan for Town and Village to consolidate must be a minimum of 45 days after the approval date of the final plan to ensure a second referendum is not requested. A summary of the final plan is to be published once each week for four successive weeks prior to the referendum. If called for, second referendum must be held within 60 to 90 days after the resolution.

Post-referendum and approval requirements: see GML §§ 765-772

After this public hearing, the Town Board of the Town of Crawford may amend the proposed Consolidation Plan.

Approval of the final Consolidation Plan by resolution. Voters who object to the approved Plan may petition for a referendum on the proposed consolidation pursuant to GML § 763. The resolution must include a copy of the final plan.

PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM VOTE

APPROVAL

FAILURE

If the second referendum **passes**, reorganization will take effect on the date specified in the Plan. Certification of results must be immediately filed with the Secretary of State, Town Clerk, and Orange County Clerk.

If the referendum **fails**, reorganization will not take place.

Combined Petition for a Consolidated Town of Crawford

To the Honorable Supervisor and Town Board:

We the people of the Town of Crawford, in order to form a better and more effective municipal government, to guard against the threat of future wasteful, redundant, and overlapping government, and to protect the environment by authorizing the Town to regulate the character of their community as villages and cities do now, petition as follows:

Goal -- to consolidate the Town with a Village to be incorporated to give the Town greater flexibility and authority to provide services to its residents, and to allow greater economy and efficiency, while protecting against the wasteful proliferation of overlapping governments by authorizing the Town to exercise the powers of a village while continuing to operate as a town. The Petition is combined as it does not seek to form a village without the consolidation with the Town. Non-consolidation would defeat the purpose of the Petition by creating an overlapping and redundant government. Because a single government will exist before, during, and after this Petition is approved and finalized, the Town will avoid the threat of wasteful proliferation of additional governments, which in turn will prevent future financial burdens to the Town and its taxpayers if a new government were incorporated without consolidation.

Authority – This Petition is authorized by the home rule provisions of the NYS Constitution, the NY Village Law and the New NY Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act. It is a proposed elector-initiated consolidation plan pursuant to statute.

Procedure -- This Petition seeks to incorporate a new Village of Crawford extending to the entire borders of the Town. This incorporation will proceed under Article 2, Incorporation, of the NY Village Law. Immediately, the newly incorporated Village shall be consolidated with the Town of Crawford pursuant to Title 2, Consolidation of Local Government Entities, of the New NY Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act. Upon the holding of required public hearings, validation of the Petition, and specified proceedings, a public referendum will be held on the Combined Petition to approve the consolidated entity. The entire Town votes to approve the Consolidation Plan. If approved by a majority in the Town, the elector-initiated consolidation plan shall be approved by the Town Board. After further publication, notice, and hearing(s), the Consolidation Plan, as may be amended, shall take effect, subject to permissive referendum. Thereafter, the newly consolidated town-village will continue to operate as a town while possessing powers, privileges, and protection appurtenant to villages.

Examples – There currently are five coterminous, consolidated or partly consolidated town-villages in New York: Mount Kisco, Harrison, Scarsdale, Green Island, and East Rochester. This Petition aims to follow the coterminous town-villages of Harrison and Scarsdale in Westchester County, which were created by forming a new village under Article 2 of the Village Law. At least four other legal mechanisms for the creation of the other three town-villages above have been identified, which are inapplicable to this combined Petition.

The Village and Town of Woodbury is an example of an overlapping, redundant municipal structure. This Petition is combined because Petitioners seek to avoid the problems created in the Village and Town of Woodbury, wherein the two entities were never consolidated after the incorporation procedure. This Petition has chosen to forgo Woodbury's example and instead follow the consolidation provisions set forth in the New NY Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act since the power of the people to choose their governance is the bedrock of American democracy.

Tolling Provision – This Combined Petition follows two separate statutory authorizations. The procedures can proceed together to permit the specified Combined Referendum. However, since the procedures may lose synchronicity, the Petitioners authorize a tolling of timeframes to permit the Combined Petition to proceed in parallel.

Incorporation Petition Provisions:

Basis – The Petition is signed by at least 20% of the electors of the incorporation area.

Village Name – Village of Crawford

Population – The incorporation area has at least 500 regular inhabitants.

Boundaries – The incorporation area is coterminous with the entire boundary of a town pursuant to § 2-200(1)(d).

Designated Representative Persons:

_____	,	_____
_____	,	_____
_____	,	_____

Description of Incorporation Area – The entire boundaries of the Town of Crawford. The incorporation area is coterminous with the entire boundary of the Town pursuant to § 2-200(1)(d).

Inhabitants – A list of registered voters is maintained by the Orange County Board of Elections and is incorporated herein by reference.

Report of Incorporation – Upon an approval by the electors of the incorporation, the Town Clerk shall file a report of incorporation in accordance with law. No further actions to organize the newly incorporated Village pending the effective date of the Elector Initiated Consolidation Plan are required.

Elector Initiated Consolidation Provisions:

Basis – The Petition is signed by at least 10% of the electors of the Town of Crawford.

Contact Person – The contact person is the first designated person above.

ELECTOR INITIATED CONSOLIDATION PLAN (the Act presumes the preparation of a Consolidation Plan following the referendum. In order that the electors be better informed, the Petitioners propose the following Consolidation Plan which may be amended, subject to permissive referendum, in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Act.):

Governments to be Consolidated – The Town of Crawford and the Village of Crawford.

Consolidated Entity – The Consolidated Town of Crawford.

Rights, Duties, and Obligations – The consolidated Town of Crawford shall have all the existing rights, duties, and obligations of a town, together with the rights, duties, and obligations of a village. In the case of conflict, the Town may determine which shall be applicable.

Territorial Boundaries – The boundaries of the consolidated Town of Crawford shall be current boundaries of the Town.

Type and/or Class – The Town of Crawford shall be a consolidated town-village municipality.

Organization and Officials – The Town shall remain organized as a Town and shall have the same officials, both elected and appointed. Officials shall have the additional powers of corresponding village officials.

Costs and Savings – The proposed Consolidation Plan is designed to minimize transition costs once the Town transforms into a consolidated town-village. While there are no immediate costs and/or savings to the Town as a result of this Petition, this Petition will prevent the costs associated with the future threat of proliferation of additional, unconsolidated municipal governments. The existence of multiple unconsolidated municipal governments, as seen in the

Village and Town of Woodbury, creates additional expenses for residents as overlapping municipal governments in turn creates overlapping taxes for the provision of redundant municipal services.

Assets -- The Town's assets are as set forth in its annual report, incorporated herein by reference. The Consolidation Plan will not affect Town assets.

Liabilities & Indebtedness – The Town's liabilities and indebtedness are set forth in its annual report and are incorporated herein by reference. The Consolidation Plan will not affect the Town's liabilities and indebtedness.

Terms of Disposition – The Town will retain its assets, liabilities, and indebtedness.

Laws, Rules, & Regulations – The Town's laws, rules, and regulations, as may be amended from time to time, shall remain in full force and effect, and shall be administered and enforced accordingly.

Effective Date of Consolidation – The effective date shall be determined in accordance with post-referendum proceedings required by the Act.

Hearing Times, Dates, & Places – Hearing times, dates, and places for the Plan shall be determined in accordance with post-referendum proceedings required by the Act.

Wherefore, Petitioners request that the Supervisor and Town Board act upon this Combined Petition in accordance with law.

Signature Pages following:

Signature Page for the Foregoing Combined Petition for a Consolidated Town of Crawford

We the undersigned electors and legal voters of the Town of Crawford, New York, qualified to vote at the next general or special election, respectfully petition that there be submitted to the electors and legal voters of the Town of Crawford and the proposed incorporation area of the proposed Village of Crawford for their approval or rejection at a referendum held for that purpose, the foregoing proposal to consolidate the Town of Crawford with the proposed Village of Crawford. The proposal to incorporate a new Village of Crawford to be consolidated with the Town of Crawford is based on the petition of 20% of the electors of the proposed incorporation area. Petitioner is familiar with the contents and purpose of the Combined Petition and the boundaries of the territory sought to be incorporated.

In witness whereof, we have signed our names on the dates indicted next to our signatures.

Date	Print Name	Signature	Home Address
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____	_____
13. _____	_____	_____	_____
14. _____	_____	_____	_____
15. _____	_____	_____	_____
16. _____	_____	_____	_____
17. _____	_____	_____	_____
18. _____	_____	_____	_____
19. _____	_____	_____	_____
20. _____	_____	_____	_____

I, _____, residing at _____, Crawford, NY am a duly qualified voter of New York State. Each of the person that have signed this petition sheet containing ____ signature have signed their names in my presence of the dates indicated above and identified themselves to be the same person who signed the sheet. I understand that this statement will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit, and if it contains a materially false statement, shall subject me to the penalties of perjury.

Date: _____ Witness Signature (Print name under) _____